

505-3-.33 SPECIAL EDUCATION PRESCHOOL (AGES 3-5) PROGRAM

(1) **Purpose.** This rule states field-specific content standards for approving programs that prepare teachers to teach students ages 3-5 (below K) with disabilities. This rule supplements requirements in Rule 505-3-.01, Requirements and Standards for Approving Professional Education Units and Educator Preparation Programs.

(2) **Requirements.**

(a) To receive approval for a Special Education Preschool Program, a state-approved professional education unit shall offer a preparation program described in program planning forms, catalogs, and syllabi addressing the following standards:

1. The program shall conform to the following Common Core standards for the preparation of all beginning special education teachers published by the Council for Exceptional Children:

(i) Foundations

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who know the models, theories, and philosophies that form the basis for special education practice.

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who know and apply the laws, policies, and ethical principles regarding behavior management.

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the relationship of special education to the organization and function of educational agencies.

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who know the rights and responsibilities of students, parents, teachers, and other professionals, and schools related to exceptional learning needs.

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who are familiar with the issues in definition and identification of individuals with exceptional learning needs, including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

(VI) The program shall prepare candidates who are knowledgeable about the issues, assurances, and due process rights related to assessment, eligibility, and placement within a continuum of services.

(VII) The program shall prepare candidates who understand family systems and the role of families in the educational process.

(VIII) The program shall prepare candidates who understand historical points of view and the contribution of culturally diverse groups.

(IX) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the impact of the dominant culture on shaping schools and the individuals who study and work in them.

(X) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the potential impact of differences in values, languages, and customs that can exist between the home and school.

(XI) The program shall prepare candidates who can articulate a personal philosophy of special education.

(ii) Development and Characteristics of Learners

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who understand typical and atypical human growth and development.

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who are cognizant of the educational implications of characteristics of various exceptionalities.

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the characteristics and effects of the cultural and environmental milieu of the individual with exceptional learning needs and the family.

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who understand family systems and the role of families in supporting development.

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who are aware of similarities and differences among individuals with and without exceptional learning needs.

(VI) The program shall prepare candidates who are aware of similarities and differences among individuals with exceptional learning needs.

(VII) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the effects of various medications on individuals with exceptional learning needs.

(iii) Individual Learning Differences

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the effects an exceptional condition(s) can have on an individual's life.

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the impact of learners' academic and social abilities, attitudes, interests, and values on instruction and career development.

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who appreciate variations in beliefs, traditions, and values across and within cultures and their effects on relationships among individuals with exceptional learning needs, family, and schooling.

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who understand cultural perspectives influencing the relationships among families, schools, and communities as related to instruction.

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who understand differing ways of learning of individuals with exceptional learning needs including those from culturally diverse backgrounds and strategies for addressing these differences.

(iv) Instructional Strategies

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who can use strategies to facilitate integration into various settings.

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who can teach individuals to use self-assessment, problem solving, and other cognitive strategies to meet their needs.

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who select, adapt, and use instructional strategies and materials according to the characteristics of the individual with exceptional learning needs.

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who use strategies to facilitate maintenance and generalization of skills across learning environments.

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who use procedures to increase the individual's self-awareness, self-management, self-control, self-reliance, and self-esteem.

(VI) The program shall prepare candidates who use strategies that promote successful transitions for individuals with exceptional learning needs.

(v) Learning Environments and Social Interactions

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who are aware of the demands of learning environments.

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who know and apply basic classroom management theories and strategies for individuals with exceptional learning needs.

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who know principles of effective management of teaching and learning.

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who are aware of teacher attitudes and behaviors that influence behavior of individuals with exceptional learning needs.

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who have social skills needed for educational and other environments.

(VI) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies for crisis prevention and intervention.

(VII) The program shall prepare candidates who know strategies for preparing individuals to live harmoniously and productively in a culturally diverse world.

(VIII) The program shall prepare candidates who know ways to create learning environments that allow individuals to retain and appreciate their own and each other's respective language and cultural heritage.

(IX) The program shall prepare candidates who know ways specific cultures are negatively stereotyped.

(X) The program shall prepare candidates who are aware of strategies used by diverse populations to cope with a legacy of former and continuing racism.

(XI) The program shall prepare candidates who create a safe, equitable, positive, and supportive learning environment in which diversities are valued.

(XII) The program shall prepare candidates who identify realistic expectations for personal and social behavior in various settings.

(XIII) The program shall prepare candidates who identify supports needed for integration into various program placements.

(XIV) The program shall prepare candidates who design learning environments that encourage active participation in individual and group activities.

(XV) The program shall prepare candidates who modify the learning environment to manage behaviors.

(XVI) The program shall prepare candidates who use performance data and information from all stakeholders to make or suggest modification in learning environments.

(XVII) The program shall prepare candidates who establish and maintain rapport with individuals with and without exceptional learning needs.

(XVIII) The program shall prepare candidates who teach self-advocacy.

(XIX) The program shall prepare candidates who create an environment that encourages self-advocacy and increased independence.

(XX) The program shall prepare candidates who use effective and varied behavior management strategies.

(XXI) The program shall prepare candidates who use the least intensive behavior management strategy consistent with the needs of the individual with exceptional learning needs.

(XXII) The program shall prepare individuals who design and manage daily routines.

(XXIII) The program shall prepare candidates who organize, develop, and sustain learning environments that support positive intra-cultural and intercultural experiences.

(XXIV) The program shall prepare candidates who mediate controversial intercultural issues among students within the learning environment in ways that enhance any culture, group, or person.

(XXV) The program shall prepare candidates who shall structure, direct, and support the activities of para-educators, volunteers, and tutors.

(XXVI) The program shall prepare candidates who use universal precautions.

(vi) Communication

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the effects of cultural and linguistic differences on growth and development.

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the characteristics of their own culture and use of language and the ways in which these can differ from other cultures and uses of languages.

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who understand ways of behaving and communicating among cultures that can lead to misinterpretation and misunderstanding.

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the use of augmentative and assistive communication strategies.

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who use strategies to support and enhance the communication skills of individuals with exceptional learning needs.

(VI) The program shall prepare candidates who use communication strategies and resources to facilitate understanding of subject matter for students whose primary language is not the dominant language.

(vii) Instructional Planning

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who know theories and research that form the basis of curriculum development and instructional practice.

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who know the scope and sequences of general and special curricula.

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who know national, state or provincial, and local curricula.

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who can use technology for planning and managing the teaching and learning environment.

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the roles and responsibilities of the para-educator related to instruction, intervention, and direct service.

(VI) The program shall prepare candidates who identify and prioritize areas of the general curriculum and accommodations for individuals with exceptional learning needs.

(VII) The program shall prepare candidates who develop and implement comprehensive, longitudinal individualized programs in collaboration with team members.

(VIII) The program shall prepare candidates who involve the individual and family in setting instructional goals and monitoring progress.

(IX) The program shall prepare candidates who use functional assessments to develop intervention plans.

(X) The program shall prepare candidates who use task analysis.

(XI) The program shall prepare candidates who sequence, implement, and evaluate individualized learning objectives.

(XII) The program shall prepare candidates who integrate affective, social and life skills with academic curricula.

(XIII) The program shall prepare candidates who develop and select instructional content, resources, and strategies that respond to cultural, linguistic, and gender differences.

(XIV) The program shall prepare candidates who incorporate and implement instructional and assistive technology into the educational program.

(XV) The program shall prepare candidates who prepare lesson plans.

(XVI) The program shall prepare candidates who prepare and organize materials to implement daily lesson plans.

(XVII) The program shall prepare candidates who use instructional time effectively.

(XVIII) The program shall prepare candidates who make responsive adjustments to instruction based on continual observations.

(XIX) The program shall prepare candidates who prepare individuals to exhibit self-enhancing behavior in response to societal attitudes and actions.

(viii) Assessment

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who know basic terminology used in assessment.

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who know and implement legal provisions and ethical principles regarding assessment of individuals.

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who know screening, pre-referral, referral, and classification procedures.

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who know the use and limitations of assessment instruments.

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who are aware of national, state or provincial, and local accommodations and modifications.

(VI) The program shall prepare candidates who gather relevant background information.

(VII) The program shall prepare candidates who administer nonbiased formal and informal assessments.

(VIII) The program shall prepare candidates who use technology to conduct assessments.

(IX) The program shall prepare candidates who develop or modify individualized assessment strategies.

(X) The program shall prepare candidates who interpret information for formal and informal assessments.

(XI) The program shall prepare candidates who use assessment information in making eligibility, program, and placement decisions for individuals with exceptional learning needs, including those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds.

(XII) The program shall prepare candidates who report assessment results to all stakeholders using effective communication skills.

(XIII) The program shall prepare candidates who evaluate instruction and monitor progress of individuals with exceptional learning needs.

(XIV) The program shall prepare candidates who develop or modify individualized assessment strategies.

(XV) The program shall prepare candidates who create and maintain records.

(ix) Professional and Ethical Practice

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who understand personal and cultural biases and differences that affect one's teaching.

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the importance of the teacher serving as a model for individuals with exceptional learning needs.

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the continuum of lifelong professional development.

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who are aware of methods to remain current regarding research-validated practice.

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who practice within the CEC Code of Ethics and other standards of the profession.

(VI) The program shall prepare candidates who uphold high standards of competence and integrity and exercise sound judgment in the practice of the profession.

(VII) The program shall prepare candidates who act ethically in advocating for appropriate services.

(VIII) The program shall conduct professional activities in compliance with applicable laws and policies.

(IX) The program shall prepare candidates who demonstrate commitment to developing the highest education and quality-of-life potential of individuals with exceptional learning needs.

(X) The program shall prepare candidates who demonstrate sensitivity for the culture, language, religion, gender, disability, socio-economic status, and sexual orientation of individuals.

(XI) The program shall prepare candidates who practice within their skill limit and obtain assistance as needed.

(XII) The program shall prepare candidates who use verbal, nonverbal, and written language effectively.

(XIII) The program shall prepare candidates who conduct self-evaluation of instruction.

(XIV) The program shall prepare candidates who access information on exceptionalities.

(XV) The program shall prepare candidates who reflect on their practice to improve instruction and guide professional growth.

(x) Collaboration

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who know models and strategies of consultation and collaboration.

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who know the roles of individuals with exceptional learning needs, families, and school and community personnel in planning of an individualized program.

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the concerns of families of individuals with exceptional learning needs and strategies to help address these concerns.

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who know culturally responsive factors that promote effective communication and collaboration with individuals with exceptional learning needs, families, school personnel, and community members.

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who maintain confidential communication about individuals with exceptional learning needs.

(VI) The program shall prepare candidates who collaborate with families and others in assessment of individuals with exceptional learning needs.

(VII) The program shall prepare candidates who foster respectful and beneficial relationships between families and professionals.

(VIII) The program shall prepare candidates who assist individuals with exceptional learning needs and their families in becoming active participants in the educational team.

(IX) The program shall prepare candidates who collaborate with school personnel and community members in integrating individuals with exceptional learning needs into various settings.

(X) The program shall prepare candidates who use group problem solving skills to develop, implement and evaluate collaborative activities.

(XI) The program shall prepare candidates who model techniques and coach others in the use of instructional methods and accommodations.

(XII) The program shall prepare candidates who communicate with school personnel about the characteristics and needs of individuals with exceptional learning needs.

(XIII) The program shall prepare candidates who communicate effectively with families of individuals with exceptional learning needs from diverse backgrounds.

(XIV) The program shall prepare candidates who observe, evaluate and provide feedback to para-educators.

2. The program shall conform to the following standards for the preparation of all beginning special education teachers of early childhood students published by the Council for Exceptional Children.

(i) Foundations

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who are familiar with the historical and philosophical foundations of services for young children both with and without exceptional learning needs.

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who are familiar with trends and issues in early childhood education and early childhood special education.

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who know the law and policies that affect young children, families, and programs for young children.

(ii) Development and Characteristics of Learners

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who know theories of typical and atypical early childhood development.

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who know the effect of biological and environmental factors on pre-, peri-, and post-natal development.

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the influence of stress and trauma, protective factors and resilience, and supportive relationships on the social and emotional development of young children.

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who know the significance of socio-cultural and political contexts for the development and learning of young children who are culturally and linguistically diverse.

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who are aware of the impact of medical conditions on family concerns, resources, and priorities.

(VI) The program shall prepare candidates who know about childhood illnesses and communicable diseases.

(iii) Individual Learning Differences

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who use intervention strategies with young children and their families that affirm and respect family, cultural and linguistic diversity.

(iv) Instructional Strategies

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who use instructional practices based on knowledge of the child, family, community, and the curriculum.

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who use knowledge of future educational settings to develop learning experiences and select instructional strategies for young children.

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who prepare young children for successful transitions.

(v) Learning Environments and Social Interactions

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who are familiar with medical care considerations for premature, low-birth-weight, and other young children with medical and health conditions.

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who implement nutrition plans and feeding strategies.

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who use health appraisal procedures and make referrals as needed.

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who design, implement, and evaluate environments to assure developmental and functional appropriateness.

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who provide a stimuli-rich indoor and outdoor environment that employs materials, media, and technology, including adaptive and assistive technology.

(VI) The program shall prepare candidates who maximize young children's progress in group and home settings through organization of the physical, temporal, and social environments.

(vi) Language

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who support and facilitate family and child interactions as primary contexts for learning and development.

(vii) Instructional Planning

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who implement, monitor and evaluate individualized family service plans and individualized education plans.

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who plan and implement developmentally and individually appropriate curriculum.

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who design intervention strategies incorporating information from multiple disciplines.

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who implements developmentally and functionally appropriate individual and group activities including play, environmental routines, parent-mediated activities, group projects, cooperative learning, inquiry experiences, and systematic instruction.

(viii) Assessment

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who assess the development and learning of young children.

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who select, adapt, and use specialized formal and informal assessments for infants, young children, and their families.

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who participate as a team member to integrate assessment results in the development and implementation of individualized family service plans and individualized education plans.

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who assist families in identifying their concerns, resources, and priorities.

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who participate and collaborate as a team member with other professionals in conducting family-centered assessments.

(VI) The program shall prepare candidates who evaluate services with families.

(ix) Professional and Ethical Practice

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who are familiar with organizations and publications relevant to the field of early childhood special education.

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who recognize signs of child abuse and neglect in young children and follow reporting procedures.

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who respect family choices and goals.

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who apply models of team process in early childhood.

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who advocate for enhanced professional status and working conditions for early childhood service providers.

(VI) The program shall prepare candidates who participate in activities of professional organizations relevant to the field of early childhood special education.

(VII) The program shall prepare candidates who apply research and effective practices critically in early childhood settings.

(VIII) The program shall prepare candidates who develop, implement, and evaluate a professional development plan relevant to their work with young children.

(x) Collaboration

(I) The program shall prepare candidates who understand the dynamics of team-building, problem-solving, and conflict resolution.

(II) The program shall prepare candidates who assist the family in planning for transitions.

(III) The program shall prepare candidates who communicate effectively with families about curriculum and their child's progress.

(IV) The program shall prepare candidates who apply models of team process in early childhood settings.

(V) The program shall prepare candidates who apply various models of consultation in early childhood settings.

(VI) The program shall prepare candidates who establish and maintain positive collaborative relationships with families.

(VII) The program shall prepare candidates who provide consultation and instruction specific to services for children and families.

(b) The program shall meet all requirements specified in Rule 505-3-.01 (4.f.), Special Georgia Requirements.

[Authority O.C.G.A. 20-2-200](#)